

FAGERNES INTERNATIONAL AUTUMN 2022

THE LAHLUM ROUND REPORT

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GM Group

The second part of the double round not unexpectedly gave a relatively quiet evening on the top boards. Top three boards Pragganandhaa Rameshbabu–Abdulrauf, Puranik–Andersen and Ghazarian–Narayan all were drawn within four hours and without any winning advantages. The round still had many exciting moments and the top prize fight tightened further.

IM/WGM Vaishali Rameshbabu hit back from a dubious opening to win an exciting attacking battle against GM Sethuraman Sethuraman, GM Anton Demchenko won by a nice attack against FM Viktor Haarmark Nielsen, while GM Krishnan Sasikiran safely realized his extra pawn in a rook endgame against FM Semen Mitusov. Following this the Rameshbabu siblings are now sharing the lead at 4.0/5 with each other plus Narayanan, Demchenko, Sasikiran, Andersen, Puranik, Abdulrauf AND Ghazarian! Sethuraman's loss to Vaishali was the only game lost by a GM today, hence all the big fishes are steaming upward before the second half of this tournament.

The first board today was a much anticipated 17 year old duel between **GM Pragganandhaa Rameshbabu (2687)** of India and **IM Elham Abdulrauf (2495)** of Norway. Entering a Caro-Kann with 1...c6 and 3...c5?! as black against a world class player is too cool for school – but yes Abdulrauf still did it tonight. True enough white first got some initiative, but black proved able to exchange the queens plus two sets of minor pieces, leaving an approximately balanced position with two rooks, bishop, knight and six pawns on each side. After the light-squared bishops too were exchanged, an accurate stream of tactical exchanges after 40 moves left a drawn rook endgame with five pawns on each side.

Avoiding a loss as black in this game of course improved further the GM-norm chances for Abdulrauf. 2.0/4 from now on almost certainly will be enough, although more top rated players are lining up in front of him.



Pragganandhaa vs Abdulrauf



Puranik vs Andersen

GM Abhimanyu Puranik (2603) versus **GM Mads Andersen (2604)** was another positional and sound Italian duel. Black had no problems whatsoever after 18 moves. Lagging 15 minutes behind on the clock, white offered a draw, which was accepted. Many people, especially in India, expected Puranik to play for a win as white. Andersen of course was very well satisfied with a two-hour draw as black, one hour after winning his fourth round game in 6.5 hours.



Ghazarian vs Narayanan

IM Kirk Ghazarian (2446) versus **GM S. L. Narayanan (2663)** was a closed Catalan opening, which saw first a steam of pawn exchanges and then a steam of piece exchanges. None of the players ever appeared close to winning chances, and a draw was agreed after 36 moves in a dead drawn double minor piece endgame. This still was a dynamic four- hour game with many choices to make for both players, and white had less than a minute left on the clock when accepting a draw.



Demchenko vs Nielsen

The fourth board duel between FIDE **GM Anton Demchenko (2645)** and Danish **FM Viktor Haarmark Nielsen (2384)** was a rather lively Italian opening duel, in which white castled short and black long. Something went seriously wrong for black after the opening as white's king at h1 remained in bank box, while black's king at b8 soon came under fire. Demchenko in an inspired mood crashed through on the queenside, and after 29 moves black's only chance to avoid a mate in the a-file was to stop the clock.



Rameshbabu vs Sethuraman

IM/WGM Vaishali Rameshbabu (2451) versus **GM Sethuraman Sethuraman (2645)** was a hardball Sicilian «Dragondorf» duel, in which black played 5.--- a6 and 6.--- g6. White castled long while black left his king at e8. Something went wrong for white within the first 12 moves, as black afterwards had a dangerous attacking coming up. Black however for some unknown reason stopped his attacking plans, giving white the time needed to start a gifted counterattack on the kingside. After 20 moves the wind definitely had changed, as black's king at e7 appeared much more in

danger than white's king at b1. 22.--- Qb7? later was a blunder, which could be punished by a genius knight sacrifice in the air at d4. Vaishali found the idea of the knight sacrifice, but chose the knight from b3 instead of the one at e2. This gave black some extra possibilities which made the position rather chaotic. The outcome would have been open if black after 25.Nc6!? had sacrificed his rook at c8 for the knight. Black instead moved the king back to e8, where it was soon toasted after the brilliant 26.Bxf6 Rxc6 27.Nd5!. Vaishali at 4.0/5 following this key win is fully in the run for her third GM-norm.



Sasikiran vs Mitusov

GM Krishan Sasikiran (2636) versus **FM Semen Mitusov (2415)** was a closed Catalan opening. Consequently white came slightly better while black had a solid position. Black apparently had solved his remaining problems as he after 23 moves realized the thematic e5-break, forcing a mass of exchanges. Although black was well ahead on the clock, white still was slightly better in the remaining endgame with rook, knight and five pawns against rook, bishop and five pawns. Black pinned his hope upon tactical counterplay, based upon a passed c-pawn. As Sasikiran made the better

calculations, white still won the pawn and reached a rook endgame with four against three pawns. Black had a passed a-pawn, but this was no real threat as white could place his rook behind the pawn at a7 and march forward his four against two majority on the kingside.

IM Padmini Rout (2390) versus **GM Allan Stig Rasmussen (2531)** was a Caro-Kann Advance line in which white played c5 and e5 with a big space advantage. Black after f6 followed by e5 however soon came up with gifted counterplay, and definitely came better after winning white's too advanced pawn at c5. As white still had his king in a clumsy position at e1, black could force an exchange of queens with a tactical 18.--- Qf4!. The remaining endgame with two rooks and two knights appeared complex, but in reality it was just winning for black. Soon realizing the failure, Padmini threw in the scoresheets after 28 moves.



Urkedal vs Sarkar

One hour after losing a 114-moves game, **GM Frode Urkedal (2523)** was back on track and playing for a win as white against **IM Justin Sarkar (2350)** in a Grünfeld Exchange line. The players entered a complex line which was played between Karpov and Kasparov some 30 years ago. Urkedal apparently had the much better knowledge of this variation as he ran far ahead on the clock, while winning a pawn with a clear advantage on the board. Having lost a second pawn as well, Sarkar resigned after 31 moves.



Kulaots vs Nilsen

GM Kaido Kulaots (2515) as white in a French against **Tobias Lang Nilsen (2280)** went for a modest Tarrasch, and although white got a pawn at e5 black had approximately equalized after 10 moves. As black played inaccurately afterwards, 13.b4! however gave white a strong initiative. This soon turned into a decisive attack as black was helpful opening the center for white's bishops. Around move 26 the game was not expected to last much longer, as white had won a piece and black's king at e7 still looked a bit scary. Lang Nilsen however fought on stubbornly

and succeeded in getting some counterplay against the white king at g1. As Kulaots unnecessarily gave back the piece, a much less clear position with queen, rook, bishop and four pawns against queen, rook, bishop and three pawns was observed the last half hour before the time control. White had an extra pawn which was a passed pawn at a4, but opposite-coloured bishops here gave black some attacking chances.

Kulaots left a repetition at move 40, but to get away from black's threats he had to exchange both the queens and the passed pawn. The remaining endgame with rook, opposite coloured bishops and three against two kingside pawns of course should be a draw. The GM with an extra pawn of course played on to the sixth hour. He then finally found a plan to break the deadlock, sacrificing the bishop to establish passed pawns at g6 and h6.

Black after 74 moves still had a draw within reach, but failed in a far from trivial position with only a few minutes left on the clock. White following this neatly decided the game by sacrificing both the passed pawns to win the black rook. The remaining endgame with rook and f-pawn versus bishop and e-pawn was a trivial win, and Lang Nilsen resigned after 79 moves without testing the GM technique here.



Johansson vs Gjestemoen-Vonhirsch

IM Linus Johansson (2461) as white against **FM Andre Gjestemoen-Vonhirsch (2329)** went for a relatively rare line of the Grünfeld Exchange, in which white exchanges his light-squared bishop for a knight at c6. Although black got the pair of bishops, white came better in the early middle game, as he had a dominating pawn at e5 and pleasant pressure against the backward black pawn at c6. Black's try to free his position with 19... c5? was very understandable, but still badly timed, as white could exchange the dark-squared bishops and start a decisive attack on the dark kingside squares. Johansson upheld the pressure with creative tactics and forced his way to an easy winning queen endgame with two extra pawns well before 40 moves.

IM Ludvig Carlsson (2379) versus **IM Tor Fredrik Kaasen (2445)** was a junior IM duel, which after a modest start with 1.g3 transposed into an English fianchetto opening. White realized the b4 queenside advance with some edge from the opening. Although natural 15... Bb7? later was a serious misunderstanding, as white after 16.bxc5! bxc5 17.Bxf6! Bxf6 18.Ne4 followed by 19.Qh6 soon had a decisive attack. As black replied Bg7, white neatly could leave the queen under attack at h6 some moves before continuing the king hunt with Qh7+. 24.Nxf7? however was an unnecessary knight sacrifice which gave nothing more than a repetition of checks. Unwilling to accept a draw with only a knight less, white instead sacrificed an exchange more to play on for a win with a rook less. Due to black's airy king at f6, a draw reportedly still was within reach for white with queen, knight and six pawns against queen, rook, bishop and four pawns after 35 moves. White however now had the more difficult moves to find. Although Kaasen lagged behind on the clock he still made the better calculations between move 35 and 42: Finding a temporarily safe place in the air at g5 for his king, black could counter-sacrifice a rook at f2 to get a winning attack. Carlsson for now is out as a GM norm candidate after wasting this golden chance, while Kaasen is still in the run following this very interesting game.



Arkell vs Cherniaiev

GM Keith Arkell (2413) versus **Tykhon Cherniaiev (2239)** was one of these fascinating generation duels from the chess world, as the GM is aged 61 and his young challenger 12. The opening was another Grünfeld Exchange line, in which black following an early queen exchange had no problems whatsoever. The position with rook, bishop, knight and five pawns on each side after 25 moves probably should be a draw. White's pawn at a3 still was the weakest of the remaining pawns, and following this black had more possibilities

than white when a draw very soon afterwards was agreed by repetition. Cherniaiev remarkably remaining undefeated at 3.5/5 and is ahead of schedule for an IM-norm, after drawing three GMs with the black pieces. This is even more impressive taking into account that he is an Ukrainian child refugee with a very demanding 2022 so far.

Norwegian **FM Jens Evang Ingebretsen (2363)** and Canadian **IM Shyam Thavandiran (2353)** started up with 1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2, but later transposed into a Bogó-Indian opening. White got the pair of bishops as black gave up his dark-squared bishop for a knight at c3, but black due to his strong bishop at e4 was absolutely fine. White hesitated to admit the failure by exchanging the bishop, and so black kept a slight initiative. Although black had a disturbing queen inside the white camp at b1, the position reportedly still was about equal after 34 moves.



Ingebretsen vs Thavandiran

35.Re3? was a blunder, as black could attack white's knight at g4 with 35... f5! and force a dubious knight sacrifice at e5. With black short of time on the clock, white doubled his queen and bishop in the diagonal a1-h8. Black could have played on for a win with his extra piece, but instead took the safe solution and forced a draw by perpetual check.



Roulet-Dubonnet vs Unneland

Emerik Våpenstad Roulet-Dubonnet (2343) versus FM Mathias Unneland (2185)

somewhat disappointedly started as a rather slow and positional English fianchetto, and then was drawn by a sound repetition after 16 moves.

Unneland of course could be well satisfied to draw a much higher rated opponent with black, but Roulet-Dubonnet must come up with more than this as white to stay above 2300.



Stokke vs Holand

IM Kjetil Stokke (2307) versus Per Fredrik Holand (2024)

was another English fianchetto duel, in which white got the better pawn structure after exchanging the queens at b6. Stokke later creatively sacrificed a pawn to open the position for his bishops and rooks. As black's extra pawn was a rather worthless double pawn at b7, white soon got overwhelming compensation. White's fianchetto bishop at g2 looked monstrous after 24.e5, hence black's decision to exchange it with 24...Be4? was very understandable. Still it was a losing clarification. White after

exchanging the light-squared bishops could intervene with his rook at d7, win an exchange with a knight fork at c7, and force a totally won endgame with rook and five pawns against bishop and six pawns.



Al-Tarboush vs Kvaløy

FM Ward Al-Tarboush (2161) and FM Aksel Bu Kvaløy (2278)

meanwhile had a long and lively discussion about the more than 100 year old Marshall Gambit of the Ruy Lopez opening. Kvaløy obviously had the much better preparation here, as he came far ahead on the clock with a winning attack around move 20. Kvaløy however played a bit too fast after the successful preparation, allowing white to create some counterplay with 23.g4!. Black sacrificed an exchange at e4, but white sacrificed it back at e5. The conclusion following a queen exchange at move 27 became rook, two bishops and six

pawns against rook, bishop, knight and six pawns. The pair of bishops first gave white a slight plus. White however soon succeeded in exchanging one of the bishops for his active knight, after which the players landed in a dead drawn endgame with opposite-coloured bishops.

Joel P. Ganta (2031) versus **FM Nicolai Kistrup (2274)** was a stormy open Catalan with many early exchanges. After 15 moves the players breathed out and started to think over again about a position with two rooks, bishop, knight and five pawns against two rooks, bishop, knight and six pawns. White had the better pawn structure due to white's double c-pawn, and came better as black decided immediately to give back a pawn at g7. White later was given the the much better chances, as he had a superior pawn structure and was well ahead on the clock. Kistrup again spent a lot of time, but succeeded in activating his pieces and exchange one of the c-pawns. White kept an initiative into the rook and knight endgame, and after 40 moves got three against two pawns in the knight endgame. Black's active pieces and passed c-pawn however gave him a fairly easy draw at that stage, and Kistrup sensationally had more than ten minutes left on the clock when a draw was agreed after 49 moves.

The teenager duel between **Shazil Shehzad (2224)** and **Eivind Grunt Kreken (2107)** was an English fianchetto, in which white's double fianchetto bishops at b2 and g2 gave him a pleasant plus after the c- and d-pawns were exchanged. Black's queen after 14 moves also was far from ideal at a6. 15.--- b5? in this situation was consequent, but still disasterous, and Shehzad soon won decisive material after an elegant 16.Na5? Qxa5 17.Bxc6.



Shehzad vs Kreken



Perkampus vs Welling

The German junior **Laurin Perkampus (2123)** today had white against **IM Gerard Welling (2272)**, which started up with an apparently modest 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6. The rare Keres line of the Queen's Pawn opening here turned out to be a clever preparation, as Perkampus spent and a lot of time in the opening and obviously was not prepared for the complications after 3.e4 Bb7 4.Bd3 Bb4+ 5.Kf1 f5. Welling allowed white to play exf5 followed by fxe6, and soon got excellent compensation for the pawn plus one hour more on the clock.

Perkampus succeeded in exchanging some pieces and still was a pawn up, but had only two minutes left on the clock, when he at move 18 offered a draw. Welling first wanted to play on, but thinking for too long he found more resources in the white position. Accepting a draw for the IM was more than a bit unambitious, as he still had 48 minutes against 2 on the clock and full compensation for the pawn. It should be mentioned that the first line recommended by the computers here, reportedly leading to a clear advantage, is very difficult to understand for any human beings at least below 2700.



Austad vs Prilleltensky

Eirik Strøm Austad (1985) as white in a Sicilian against **Matan Prilleltensky (2222)** went for a rare fianchetto line with 3.g3, leaving the theory discussions in favour of a fairly balanced isolated pawn position. This later changed into a fairly balanced hanging pawn position, as white exchanged his d4 knight for a black bishop at e6. Black got a sound pawn structure as white later exchanged another piece at c6. Black however weakened his center pawns and played inaccurately when exchanging the last minor piece, after which white could pick up a pawn and play safely for a win with

queen, rook and four pawns against queen, rook and three pawns.

White in the fifth hour reached a won position, as black had to place his rook in a passive defensive position at g8. White used the opportunity to cash in black's a5-pawn and had two extra pawns at the start of the sixth hour. White still had some practical problems with his airy king, and within a few moves dropped back the a-pawn. Prilleltensky defended well despite time shortage and after 86 moves escaped into a dead drawn endgame with rook and two kingside pawns against rook and three kingside pawns. Austad continued to play until around midnight, but after 111 moves only the two kings were left from the last game in this double round day.



Amundsen vs Westrum

Ask Amundsen (1869) versus **Kim Roger Hansen Westrum (2156)** was another duel between two promising teenagers as well as another positional Italian opening duel. Black got the pair of bishops after exchanging off white's bishop at c4 for a knight, and after 15 moves had the slightly better long term perspectives. White's tactical 18.Nxe5?! was dubious as the desperado 18.—Qxh3! could have won a pawn for black. After both players missed that important detail, the conclusion after the smoke left became a fairly balanced endgame with rook, bishop, knight and six

pawns on each side of the front. Black sacrificed a pawn to intervene with his rook at d1 in the rook and bishop endgame, which was just before 40 moves drawn by a sound repetition.



Schouten vs Verbin

Mathias Lind Schouten (2128) and **Valentina Verbin (2075)**

investigated a rare Sicilian Najdorf line with 6.Qf3 g6. White castled long while black left her king at e8. Schouten after 14 moves left an invitation for a repetition of moves, and got pressure after black helpfully exchanged off the queens. As white not had to worry much about his king he could start a direct attack on black's queenside pawns, and eventually won a pawn at a6. After finally castling short, Verbin however successfully created some

counterplay, trading two knights for rook and pawn following a tactical Nc3+.

The remaining position was rather chaotic and very difficult to play from both sides, with four active bishops, three active rooks and two more or less active knights, two passed queenside pawns for white and big kingside pawn majority for black. First black reportedly was somewhat better and then white reportedly was much better. Then, after the first time control, the remaining endgame with bishop, two knights and two queenside pawns against rook, bishop and two kingside pawns reportedly should be a draw. White anyway gave up knight and bishop for black's bishop and kingside pawns, but later found no real winning chances with knight and two scattered queenside pawns against rook.

Jacob Tempel Grave (2221) got the better half of a positional Semi-Slav line as white against **Evsuld Mygmarsuren (1952)**, since white after e4 followed by c5 established a sound space advantage.

19.Ne5?! might have been dubious as black could exchange the knight for a bishop and then exchange the pawn at c5. The wind turned in favour of white as he was allowed to win a pawn at a7. Then it turned again in favour of black, as he for even more mysterious reasons was able to win back a more valuable pawn at e5. White's plan of kicking back the knight with 30.f4?! was dubious, as a tactical counterstrike with 30.--- c5! could have given black an extra pawn and a clear advantage. Instead 30.--- f5? however was a tactical blunder, as white soon won the backward e6-pawn and before 40 moves reached a won bishop endgame.

14 year old **Vetle Bjørge Strand (2053)** gave his Veresov system with 1.d4 2.Nc3 and 3.Bf4 another try against 12 year old **Nicolai Østensen (2136)**. Today it worked out much better, and Strand got a clear advantage as black was helpful giving white an open a-file and the pair of bishops. White in turn made a strange decision to exchange off his light-squared bishop at a6, after which black could hit back in the center with d5 and reach an approximately balanced position. Around move 20–30, the position with queen, two rooks, knight and seven pawns on each side varied between equal and slightly better for white. Black was some 40 minutes ahead on the clock, and following this chances were considered more or less balanced. Black however played too fast, and 30.--- Qd7? was a blunder as white due to a d-file pin could play 31.Nc4! and 32.Nd6! with a strong initiative. Strand despite time shortage soon found a decisive knight sacrifice at f7, and crushed the black kingside completely well before 40 moves.

Martin Holten Fiskaaen (2118) versus **Dion Krivenko (2107)** was another duel between two ambitious and creative teenagers. Black went for a Benko Gambit but found nothing but exchanges afterwards. Following this white around move 25–30 had a clear advantage due to his extra pawn at a5. White's only problem, well known from these positions, was that black could block the passed pawn with a rook at a6. Making further progress then was not an easy cake for white. As white went for a second front on the kingside, black was able to limit the new dangers by



Fiskaaen vs Krivenko

exchanging off the queens. Both players spent a lot of time after the time control, but white in the early sixth hour finally succeeded in opening the center and reach a won endgame with two rooks and four pawns against two rooks and three pawns.

77.d6 although not necessary was fine, as white after exchanging his d-pawn for the black c-pawn had two passed pawns on the queenside. With both players down to 1–2 minutes on the clock late in the evening, Krivenko succeeded in making the win practically difficult for white – picking up the pawn at g3 and then giving some disturbing checks against the white king. A few minutes before midnight, white at move 91 and move 93 missed a fairly straightforward win with Rf4+! followed by Rb7!. Instead 93.a7? allowed the still very awake Krivenko to escape with a draw: Black now could take the white pawn at b5 with check, and afterwards place his rooks behind the white a-pawn.



Grønnestad vs Sian

WFM Anita Grønnestad (1970) versus **Shadi Sian (2108)** was another long game, and at the same time also a rapidly changing one. It all started up with Queen's Gambit Tartakower line, in which 11.--- c5 would have resulted in a fairly normal hanging pawns position with black pawns at c5 and d5. Instead 11.--- Ne4? just blundered the pawn at d5. Following this white after 18 moves was a sound pawn up with a close to winning light-square dominance. Grønnestad spent a lot of time for the next moves, but found a good attacking plan and at move 28 had a straightforward win with

28.Bc2! – threatening mate with 29.Qh7. 28.Rxf6?! was unnecessary, but still sufficient to win. Instead of moving her knight to g6 white however started to move it backwards to g1, and so black after 34 moves suddenly had the better chances with queen, rook, knight and four pawns against queen, bishop, g1-knight and five pawns. Ten moves later on black had a winning attack with 44.--- Qe2!, but instead blundered with 44.--- Nd5??. White after 45.Bxf5+ Kh8 46.Qb8+ Qg8 had a clearcut win with 47.Qd6! – threatening the knight at d5 and the vital pawn at h6. After white missed that chance, the position was balancing on the edge for an hour more.

White succeeded in winning back the exchange, but still had to fight for a draw as black's active queen in the meantime picked up several pawns. Due to black's airy king, the endgame with queen, bishop and two pawns against queen, knight and three pawns still gave white fair chances for a draw after 70 moves. That was however before white blundered both her kingside pawns in one move with 72.Bc6??, allowing 72... Qxg4+ followed by 73... Qxh5+. Sian following this made no further mistakes, and efficiently decided this highly entertaining game by forcing a queen exchange a few moves later on.



Melaa vs Johannessen

Sondre Melaa (2223) and **Heine N. Johannessen (2033)** in the meantime discussed an Accepted Queen's Gambit, in which white's pawn at d5 gave him a space advantage. Black however had some counterplay on the kingside after instructively directing his knight to the strong f4 square. A tense but rather closed battle followed, as all 32 pieces were still in play after 25 moves. 25... Qh4? however was a misunderstood attacking plan from a black perspective: The queen soon

was kicked back to e7, and white won a pawn at c7 with a clear advantage. As white later could close down the kingside, he held a very sound extra pawn at d5. Winning still was not easy in such a heavyweight closed position. Black's pawn at e5 however was a potential weakness, and after moving around for a few hours, white at move 58 pseudo-sacrificed his knight for that pawn. After white within five moves won back the piece, he had successfully opened the position and was two pawns up in the queen and bishop endgame. Winning still was no way trivial after 67 moves, as white's king too was much more open now. Heine Johannessen for a change was ten minutes ahead on the clock, but then played too fast with 67... Bc4?? – somehow overlooking that 68.Qc5+! forced a won pawn endgame for white.

Andreas Skrede Hausken (2050) versus **FM Richard Bjerke (2096)** saw a tense French Tarrasch duel, in which black reached a very sound position, although white's pair of bishops still gave him a very small plus after 17 moves. Black had no problems whatsoever after he succeeded in exchanging off the dark-squared bishops at f6, and so the game after three hours and 32 moves was drawn by a sound repetition.

Clément Frederic (2234), **Sindre Lyngsaunet Ytrestøyl (2045)** and **Gunnar Stray (2015)** all requested a walk over draw before the second part of the double round. Following this we had an uneven number of players for round 5, and **FM Pål-Ole Liabøtrø (2145)** got a draw bye from the Swiss pairings. All four players are in good health and will be back for round 6.

Open Group

The two top rated players still have a 100 % score in their games in the Open group. Swedish **Mikael Aroven (1997)** first played a bit loose and was under pressure as black in a tactical mess against the Norwegian veteran **Karim Ali (1696)**. Ali however failed to find the best defence after a creative exchange sacrifice, hence black could intervene at h3 with his queen and win his fifth game in a row after only 27 moves.



Ali vs Aroven



Pedersen vs Solberg

FM Joachim Solberg (2167) also had some starting problems as black against 18 year old **Max Moe Pedersen (1881)**. Following some tactical turbulence, in which both players made some mistakes, Solberg in the third hour still outplayed his opponent from an approximately balanced rook and minor pieces endgame.

Round 5 was another hard-fought one in the Open, as we had a game winner on the top six boards. The third board was a Porsgrunn duel in which chairman **Lars Tormod Haugen (1861)** with the black stones pushed the whole the game against 16 year old **Philip Helland (1710)**. Black after five hours succeeded in winning this rook endgame with an extra pawn.

Alta junior **Vinjar Hammari (1853)** soon got the upper hand as white against surprise man **Simen Nikolai Storlid (1666)**, and went on to win decisive material within 23 moves.

Fifth board duel between **Amadeus Hestvik Evenshaug (1785)** and **Ben Samuel Groth Skaar (1704)** was an interesting Sicilian battle, in which black gradually took over the initiative and then won by a rather massive heavy pieces kingside attack.

Sixth board between **Olai Dyrhaug Eriksen (1767)** and **Nikolai Olsen Wernberg (1630)** was an intensive Sicilian opening duel, in which white's decision to snatch a pawn at d5 with his knight at move 9 was too greedy and could have given black a decisive initiative. As black instead became too helpful exchanging off pieces, white still came a sound pawn up and won the rook endgame fairly safely.

Once more we had many entertaining games, many game winners and relatively few surprising game results in the Open. 13 year old **Even Hetland (1432)** however had another nice win against **Edvard Andersen (1675)** today, as white by tactical means turned a difficult endgame into a winning one.

Following all this we after five rounds in the Open had Aroven leading alone at 5.0/5, ahead of Solberg as the only player at 4.5, and then Haugen, Hammari, Dyrhaug Eriksen, Skaar and Ali shared the third place at 4.0.

Solberg has won all his four games, but for work reasons requested walk over draws for round 4 og 6. Following this we will have to wait at least for round 7 to see the two top rated participants play against each other. Aroven now instead will play white against young Hammari, while Haugen versus Eriksen and Skaar versus Ali will be the other top board pairings for round 6.



Photos by Tom Eriksen